

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



BARRY GERTRUDE b.1966
(Seychelles)

Barry Gertrude is a multi-disciplinary artist who creates works in both two and three dimensions.

Along with three other Byenal participants Barry lectures at the Seychelles Institute for Art and Design (SIAD).

For the 2020 edition of the Byenal the artist intends to create an installation platform where visitors will be encouraged to interact with large paintings and assemblages and swap audio CDs with the artist. The concept is culturally and technologically driven, with digital compact discs becoming obsolete and cherished music either stored on hard drives or streamed. As the artist's CD's are 'lost' they are simultaneously 'found' by another. Issues of recycling and sustainability become relevant within this context. The exchanges will be recorded in a log book.

The artist, who has exhibited widely in Seychelles and overseas, states that his intention is to 're-instil in society the attitude of sharing and caring instead of just throwing away...as well as rediscover the human contacts instead of digital or social media contacts'.

Large heads of musicians will be incorporated into the installation which will be carved from large polystyrene blocks salvaged from Aldabra. There will also be a video of the artist explaining how the exchange scheme works which will play every 5 minutes against a low-level (ambient) soundtrack of pop music.



DANIEL DODIN b. 1986
(Seychelles)

Daniel Dodin also works at SIAD and will also be incorporating salvaged waste from Aldabra island in his installation.

The artist represented Seychelles at the last Venice Biennale where he exhibited a multi media installation comprised of signature multi layered video films, painting and assemblages.

His exhibition for the 2020 Byenal consolidates and extends this concept and once again the artist is concerned with the human journey – which will be symbolised by the many flip flops which will form the centre piece of the installation.

The artist will also record and play field recordings of the bottle collectors – mostly young Seychellois who choose to opt out of the formal employment market and collect and sell discarded bottles and cans. The artist will also create three paintings specific to the Byenal theme using flip flops fused with silicon as a base for painting. Individual flip flops will carry the signature bottle carrier emblem which the artist deployed in Venice.

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



MARC LUC b. 1959
(Seychelles)

A painter and installation artist, Marc Luc will be exhibiting an installation which celebrates lost heroes. Global icons such as Jimi Hendrix and John Coltrane will be represented alongside Marc's brother, Achille, who died in 2019. Achille Luc will be fused in video artworks with his brother's contemporary heroes. The installation will invite viewers to step into a highly personal statement about the essential nature of human existence – the temporary state of being.

The artist will also include objets trouve, large free-standing sculpture and painting as well as projected films.

The artist intends to create a fusion of music and spirituality and wonders; 'Will the Jimi Hendrix Experience turn up?'



ALLEN GERVAIS COMETTANT b. 1973
KARYN ZIALOR b. 1995
MARIA PARK b. 1996
(Seychelles, Seychelles and the USA
– temporarily resident in Seychelles)

Three artists are working together to create an installation which will fuse recordings (in video, photography and paint) of 30 individual people telling their personal stories to the artists. The installation will centre around a free-standing screen which will carry projections on both sides, creating fused imagery, some still, some moving. Extracts of the personal narratives will be incorporated onto the screen's surface adding a third element to the viewing experience.

Around the projection will hang 30 A4 art works – one for each featured interviewee. 10 will be watercolours (made by Park), 10 photographs (by Zialor) and 10 acrylic on canvas (by Comettant). The installation will occupy part of the NAC's Carrefours Gallery.

Allen Comettant is a widely travelled and exhibited artist, with his works featured in the 'Art in Seychelles Then and Now' publication (2017). Karyn Zialor recently returned to Seychelles after 3 years studying Fine Arts Mixed Media in London and New Jersey USA. Maria Park has a background in applied and graphic art and trained at Harvard University USA. She is currently spending a year in Seychelles funded by the Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Fellowship for building cross-cultural bridges through art.

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



RYAN CHETTY b. 1989
(Seychelles)

Ryan Chetty trained alongside Daniel Dodin in Baroda India under a scholarship provided by Vijay Construction Seychelles, after which he returned to Mahe to work as an artist and art teacher. He recently participated in a month long video art course organised by the Alliance Francais Victoria and has exhibited – and continues to exhibit – his mixed media 2D work in key galleries in Seychelles.

Ryan Chetty will interpret the Lost and Found theme through a focus on disastrous, life changing and tragic events. Disturbing images, for example from recent refugee tragedies, will be incorporated alongside human forms, seven in all, created from wire and cloth. The work will also feature low level soundtracks of human misery and pain and will be lit by low level flickering light bulbs. The viewer will walk on macadam, which will cover the base of the installation. The work will also reference the pain of divorce.



DORIS NOURRICE b. 1986
(Seychelles)

Doris Nourrice is a widely exhibited artist and art teacher who will be exhibiting a 'Lost and Found' installation at Constance Lemuria Hotel on the island of Praslin. She will be partnered at this location by an international artist.

Her work will be a highly personal response to the theme and will be created principally from old clothing which was previously worn by members of the artist's family. The installation will take the form of a web, with the form inspired by the shape of human DNA. Gunny bags will also be incorporated as symbols of sadness as well as hand-written messages from family members which will be incorporated into the fabric sculptures.

The work is entitled a 'Tete a Tete Web', with the web format representing 'a long lost connection of lost memories as a reconnection to fill up the gap and repossess this togetherness concept as a family legacy.' The web – in nature sticky – will capture engraved memories. An audio will be created to accompany the work.

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



MARIAAN LAUBSCHER b.1965
(South Africa – resident in Seychelles since 2000)

An artist and graphic designer, Mariaan Laubscher's sculpture – provisionally entitled 'Crisis Column' – will incorporate retrieved detritus from the island of Aldabra. This re-cycling of trash – and environmentally harmful trash at that – into an art object has great relevance and resonance with regards to the challenges faced by Seychelles with regards to waste control and re-cycling.

The artist normally works in glass and this installation will also feature a transparent enclosing material – clear Perspex – which will contain cleaned and selected items such as cigarette lighters and plastic ephemera. Each piece will have been lost somewhere and at some time, only to end up on the beaches of Aldabra where it will have been found, collected and brought back to Mahe. Hence the subtitle for this piece, which is 'Lost individually – found together'.

The rubbish is a small part of almost 26 tons of waste collected by the clean-up Aldabra project in March 2019. The viewer will initially be attracted by the attractive colours of the piece but on closer inspection a more sinister message will be revealed. Statistics about the content will be rendered onto the surface of the tower, reinforcing the core message that we, as individual humans, are lost in our modern society (like pieces of plastic floating on the ocean) and that finding each other, talking to each other and working together we can find ourselves and generate a collective hope for our shared home, planet Earth.



EMILIE CHETTY b. 1992
(Seychelles)

Emily Chetty is principally known as a film script writer and director. She holds an advanced diploma in screen and media and studied film making for two years at the New York Film Academy in Australia.

The artist will present a complex fusion of performance and installation at the 2020 Seychelles biennale. The intention is to create interaction between the artist and the audience and augment this with film, audio, props and environmental installation. The viewer will have the opportunity to participate fully in the narrative of the work as well as record his/her reactions and feelings in a log book at the end of the visit.

Emilie Chetty has a track record of producing short art and fictional dramatic films. 'Black and White without You' features a man struggling with grief and delusion following the death of his wife. His madness enables him to bring her back into his created reality. She is lost and found.

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



JUDE ALLY b. 1979
(Seychelles)

Jude Ally is a highly regarded artist and art teacher who has exhibited widely in Seychelles as well as Mauritius, France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon and the UK.

He trained at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

Typically working with paint onto a collaged base, Jude Ally uses expressive strokes, mark making, symbols, letters and numbers in order to evoke a sense of revelation. His works explore the link between man and society and are offerings of multiple layers of meaning and content.

For the 2020 Byenal the artist intends to create an installation from nails, timber and found objects. The concept of lost and found will be communicated through the orderly (or otherwise) arrangement of nails driven into timber. The working title – 'Transitions' – refers to the basic nature of all things to change. The artist states: 'As we progress...we are expected to be better as we learn from the past. But I feel that it's within these transitions that the structures are lost, they escape us, or we intentionally leave them behind.'



COLBERT NOURRICE b. 1964
(Seychelles)

Colbert Nourrice exhibited at the last Seychelles biennale in 2017 and, like then, will design and create an installation piece in 2020, occupying an individual area at Kenwyn House on Mahe.

The artist will be directly represented in the form of a wood and paper figurative sculpture, one of two in the art work – the other being a representation of one of the artist's slave ancestors. A large canvas will also be exhibited, as well as found objects signifying the trans-ocean journeys of slaves.

The piece will comment on the twin concepts of LOSS (of homeland and liberty for enslaved individuals) and FOUND (new lives forged post-slavery for themselves and their descendents).

The artist trained in the UK before embarking upon a career as an artist and teacher. He has exhibited in India, London, Portugal, Austria, Indonesia and France as well as Seychelles and, as part of 'Group Sez', the 2017 Venice Biennale. His signature hieroglyphic motif style delivers complex linear and cyclical serial images.

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



LAURENT ALIS b. 1981
(Seychelles/France)

Laurent Alis is a graphic designer, photographer and fine artist. His Byenal Sesel 2020 installation will address the concept of lost and found through the relationship between a father and his son, with consideration of all things lost and retrieved within this dynamic.

The artist's father died four years ago and the art work will both celebrate the man and lament his loss. As the artist states: '...my father has greatly influenced my way of life, the values I have found through him and adopted, my mannerisms and my physical appearance. He is part of my identity.'

The installation will explore, to an audio soundtrack, the relationship and its diverse elements of loss and rediscovery. Both the artist and his father will be represented through imagery and symbolic objects charged with the human presence of the protagonists.

Laurent Alis will bring his professional experience to bear upon the creation of this piece. He started his career by launching the guidebook 'Seychelles Islands' in 2008 and by featuring his work which is focussed upon the fragile beauty of the natural environment. In 2017 the artist presented work as fine art photography at the Eden Art Space Gallery, where he also curated the first exhibition of contemporary photography, 'Framing Light' in 2018. His solo exhibition 'Submerge' was held at L'Alliance Francaise Victoria in 2019, at which links were identified between the climate change in the Arctic and Antarctica and the Seychelles.



SHEILA MARKHAM b. 1945
(England/Seychelles)

Sheila Markham is a Praslinoise artist who has developed a strong, instantly recognisable signature style of figurative and semi figurative painting over a creative period exceeding 50 years.

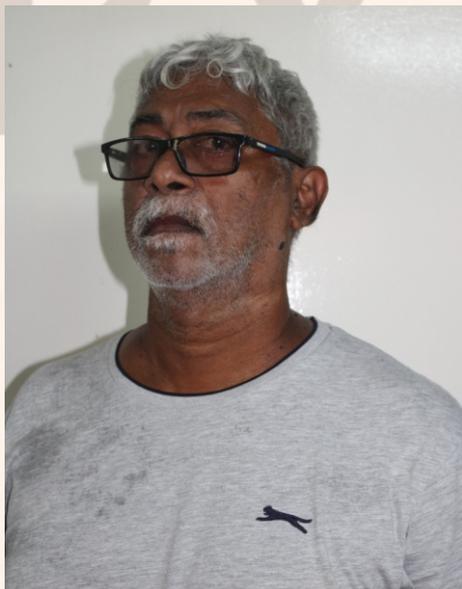
She has exhibited widely both home and abroad and has works in innumerable private collections.

She recently held a one person exhibition of works produced within the last three years at the Eden Art Space Gallery. This exhibition illustrated the artist's fresh lyrical interpretative style of responding to the natural environment – constantly her principal inspiration.

The works planned for the Byenal are both an extension of this recently exhibited collection and something quite different, as the artist chooses to respond to the biennale theme through the creation of a large triptych with three smaller hanging panels (so six separate canvases in all).

This work will be both archival in content and forward looking.

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



JUSTIN REDDY b. 1962
(Seychelles)

Justin Reddy intends to develop his response to the biennale theme by using an avant garde style allied to the artist's signature use of a wide range of found materials – paper ephemera, cartons, timber, nails and other found objects. He has exhibited widely in Seychelles as well as India and has works in a number of notable public and private collections.

Justin Reddy studied fine arts and applied arts in Thessalonica, Greece, after which he returned to teach Art and Design in Seychelles. After resigning from teaching Justin concentrated on developing his artistic style which included references to the animal kingdom as well as entomology. He has now arrived at an understanding that, in terms of materials, wood is his 'ground'. The artist explains how the use of this material enables him to express his ideas concerning the power and importance of the insect world:

'Wood is the most popular medium used by the insects themselves, so by using wood I can, as closely as possible, reproduce their original creations.'



CHRISTINE CHETTY b. 1969
(Seychelles)

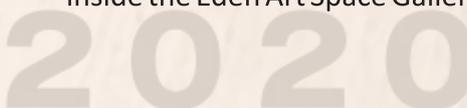
Christine Chetty is the fourth artist from the lecturing faculty of the Seychelles Institute of Art and Design, where she is the Director. She is one of the most celebrated artists in Seychelles, having developed her signature style of pro-women artistic statements through her 'Goddess' series and the use of materials traditionally associated with 'women's work'. In this way she has been able to reclaim, celebrate and redefine the role of women within Seychelles society.

The artist states that 'My work promotes the advancement and awareness of women's contribution in the arts and also advocates women's issues and self-empowerment through self-transformation.'

Originally trained in the UK the artist went on to study at Masters level in Australia. She has exhibited widely in Seychelles, as well as in Senegal, Morocco, Ethiopia, Germany, Venice, Comores, Ivory Coast, France, South Africa, the UK, Mauritius, Algeria, the USA, Canada, Iceland, India and Malaysia.

The artist intends to once again work with fabric to create an art work which will utilise lighting to illuminate both the interior structure and the understanding of the concepts driving the work.

This installation for the Byenal Sesel which will be constructed inside the Eden Art Space Gallery.



LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED

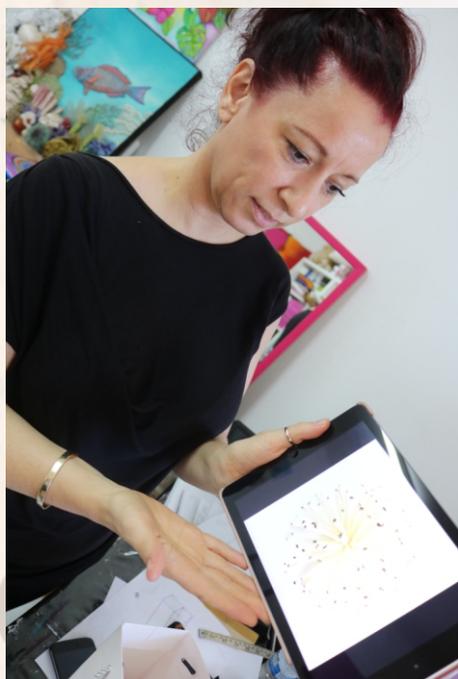


URNY MATHIOT b. 1980
(Seychelles)

Urny Mathiot is a graphic designer and painter who intends to create a complex visual piece for the Byenal Sesel, utilising projections, audio, paintings, found objects and sculptural stations. This will be constructed inside the NAC Carrefours Gallery.

The concept driving the piece will be the treat to Seychelles culture and tradition posed by the importation of foreign value systems. This is particularly pertinent not only to the theme but also with regards to the manner in which Seychellois have embraced social media platforms which are convened within a western cultural context.

Urny Mathiot will be collaborating with Seychellois film maker Johnny Volcere to create video narratives which will explore this crucial theme. The loss of tradition in the face of 'progress' is a recurring one throughout many of the proposals made by participating artists.



MICHELLE GRIFFITHS b. 1972
(Seychelles)

Michelle Griffiths is both a fine artist and a creator of fine craft – most commonly through the creation of fabric pieces. Indeed, it is the use of this material that joins the differing facets of her work together and her portfolio makes a strong case for the dissolution of rigid differentiation between creative practices traditionally designated 'art' and those called 'craft'.

The artist aims to exhibit a large-scale sculptural mixed media installation inside the Eden Art Space Gallery. It will marry acrylic painting with soft sculpture, lighting and an audio soundtrack. The piece will present suspended forms representing reef formations fabricated from fabrics, fibres and textiles. The work will also include found objects – discarded plastic and packing materials for example.

Michelle Griffiths says this about her intended installation: 'The loss of coral reefs and other various natural habitats is a worldwide concern, with every country experiencing its individual loss due to personalised threats in their own 'backyards'. I hope to raise awareness for the protection of not only the Seychelles marine environment but also to go some way to urging and influencing our international visitors to acknowledge climate change and to do our bit to protect and conserve our changing seas.'

LOCAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



JULIETTE ZELIME
aka JADEZ b.1984
(Seychelles)

Jadez was trained and later lived and worked in China, working across a wide range of disciplines – from furniture design to photomontage, from oil on canvas to 3D construction.

It is within this last facet that Jadez intends to create her installation for the 2020 Seychelles Biennale.

The artist's interpretation of lost and found is submerged beneath the surface of the ocean.

Jadez will work with a Seychellois artisan to create large scale forms using the same materials and processes employed to make fish traps in Seychelles. Once created these sculptures will be submerged in the sea and later retrieved and worked upon to create the final installation.



EGBERT MARDAY b.1953
(Seychelles)

Egbert Marday is one of Seychelles' most celebrated artists. He was recognised at the 2019 Arts Awards for his contribution to the visual arts and was awarded the award for life time achievement.

Egbert Marday is a multi-disciplinary artist who works in paint, carves wood and stone, fabricates in fibre glass and creates assemblages from found objects. He has exhibited widely internationally as well as in Seychelles, where he is currently vice chairperson of Arterial Network Seychelles, the country's leading visual arts NGO.

The artist intends to create a complex enclosed installation for the 2020 edition of the Seychelles Biennale. The visual elements will include rock – natural and/or fabricated, mixed media imagery, found objects and additional constructed forms.